



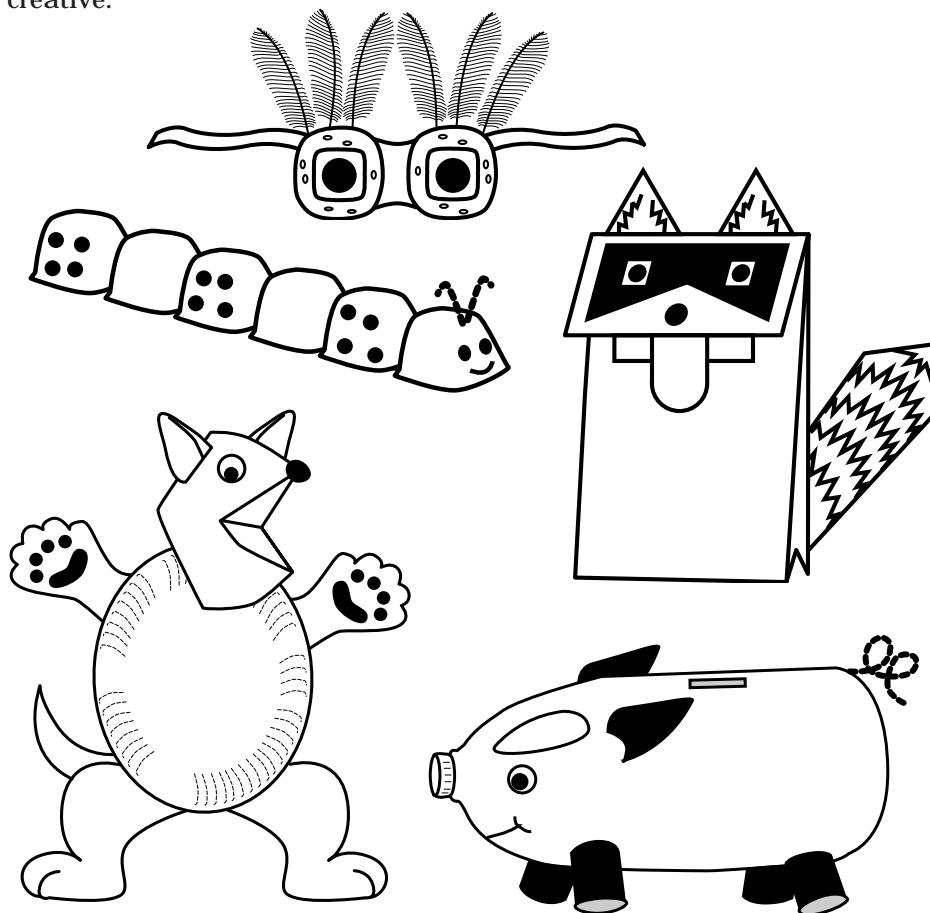
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# Wee Crafts

## Introduction

Arts and crafts materials can be costly. Instead of buying brand new materials, try reusing items that may otherwise be thrown out. Reusing means to use something more than once before throwing it away. Ask parents and local businesses to donate trash-bound items for you to use in your facility. In the art area, have a surplus of reusable odds and ends for children to create monsters, robots, rockets or dinosaurs in their free time. The following are some specific craft projects for you to create with your children. Brainstorm together to come up with variations or completely new ideas. As you work on a project, discuss the materials that are being used. What were toilet paper rolls or egg cartons used for before this project? How many different things can a paper towel tube be made into? Encourage children to use their imaginations and be creative.



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# Wee Reusables

Many creative crafts can be made from items around the house that are normally thrown away. The Parent Letter at the end of the “Wee Recycling Center” chapter in Wee Recyclers Activity Guide asks for a variety of reusable materials to be donated. Collect these items throughout the year, sort them, and store in appropriate containers. The following crafts call for many of these reusables.

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## Decorated Containers

Make a vase, candle holder, or pen/pencil holder for someone special.

### Materials:

containers (clean and empty glass bottles or jars, plastic detergent bottles cut at the “waist” or paperboard juice cans)  
glue  
scissors  
work area covered with newspaper  
decorating materials: tissue paper scraps, dried seeds or beans, dry cereal, yarn or ribbon scraps, cloth scraps, different types of macaroni, etc.

### Procedure:

1. Prior to class, select the containers for children to decorate. If working with a plastic bottles, place them in hot water for a few minutes to make them easier to cut. Cut them at the “waist”.
2. Children should select decorating materials and place these in their work area.
3. Have children spread glue on the containers’ surface using their fingers (a small section should be done at a time).
4. Have children cover the glued area with their decorating materials.
4. OPTION: When glue is dry, paint over the surface with shellac.



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## Milk Mugs\*

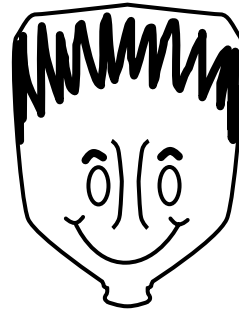
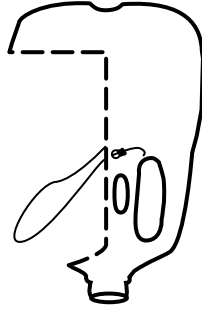
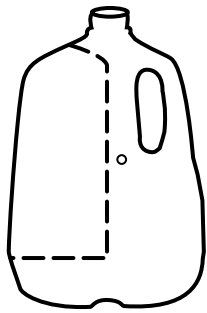
Milk jugs turned upside down make fun masks.

### Materials:

clean, plastic one-gallon milk jug  
two 18-inch lengths of string  
yarn for hair  
scissors or craft knife  
hole punch  
permanent markers or crayons  
sandpaper

### Procedure:

1. Prior to class, draw the cutting line around the milk jug and cut out the mask. If edges of the mask seem rough or ragged, sand smooth with sandpaper.
2. Show children where to punch holes on each side of the mask. Help children insert and knot the string ties on each side.
3. Have children try on their mask so you can mark the position for eye holes.
4. Cut out the eye holes for children. Sand smooth any rough edges.



5. Once the basic masks are made, encourage children to create their own characters. They can color the masks with crayons or permanent markers and glue pieces of yarn on the mask for hair.

\* Adapted from: 4R's Project (see "Resources").

## Bunny Basket\*

A tisket, a tasket, make a bunny basket!

### Materials:

clean, plastic one-gallon milk jug  
six-inch pipe cleaners  
12-inch pipe cleaners  
two large cotton balls  
permanent markers or crayons  
glue  
scissors or craft knife  
shredded paper or packing material for "grass"  
paper punch

### Procedure:

1. The basket handle can be made in one of two ways. You may either retain the handle of the milk jug by cutting above it (see fig. 1), or cut off the milk jug handle, punch a hole on either side of the basket and attach pipe cleaners for a handle (see fig. 2). Draw the appropriate cutting line around the jug and cut out the basket.

2. Make two slits on either side of where the nose will be with a knife or the pointed end of a scissors.

3. Children can color the outside of the basket using crayons or permanent markers. Talk about the fact

that real bunnies have two eyes, a nose and a mouth.

4. Help children weave six-inch pipe cleaners through the slits by the nose to make whiskers.

5. Children can glue cotton balls on the bunny for its nose and for its puffy tail.

5. Fill the basket half-full with shredded paper or packing material.

\* Adapted from: 4R's Project (see "Resources").

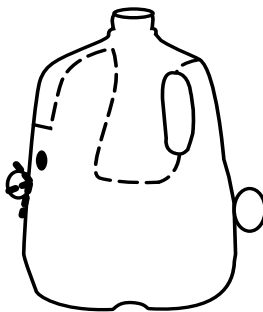


figure 1

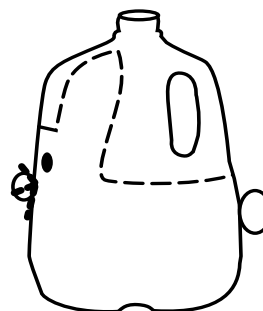
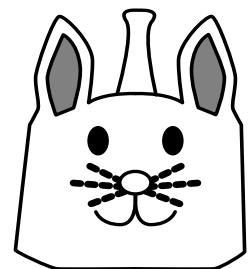
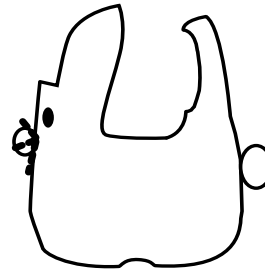
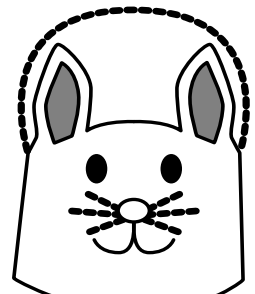
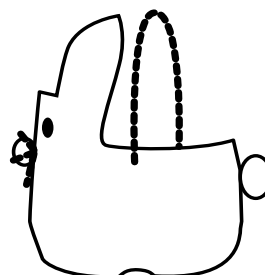


figure 2



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## Newspaper Snowperson

Build a snowperson out of reusable “snow.” Because this snow will not melt, you can plan a few days to complete your snowperson.

### Materials:

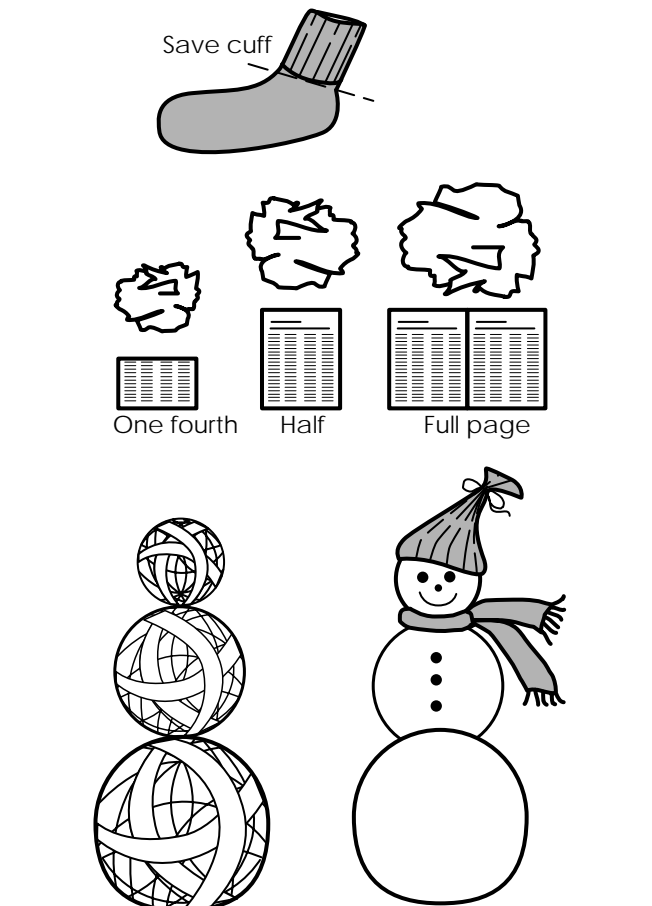
sheets of newspaper: full, half and one-fourth sheets  
rolls of masking tape  
yarn scraps  
strips of fabric  
thick, white paint (poster paint or indoor latex paint works best)  
paint brushes  
black marker  
cuff cut from a child’s old sock (have children bring these from home)  
art apron

### Procedure:

1. Several days before conducting this activity, ask parents to donate old children’s socks. Cut the socks at the ankle, save the cuff for this project and save the rest for another project.

2. During the first session, give each child a set of newspaper sheets. Have them crumble each piece into a ball. Give children strips of masking tape to wrap around the three newspaper balls. The balls should be almost completely covered with tape. Flatten the bottom of the largest ball so it doesn’t roll. Help children stack the balls on top of one another and tape them in place.

3. During the second session, prepare a work area for children to paint their snowperson. Indoor latex paint works best. Ask for a can to be donated by a parent or a local paint dealer. If latex paint is not available, mix a thick batch of poster paint. Children can paint their snowperson so that no newspa-



per or tape shows through. Allow the snowpeople to dry completely before continuing.

4. During the last session, children can draw features on their snowperson using a black marker. Give each child a sock cuff. Pull the uncut end of the cuff onto the snowperson’s head. With a small piece of yarn, tie off the cut end of the cuff to complete the hat. Finally tie a small strip of fabric around the snowperson’s neck to make a scarf.

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## Reusing Six-Pack Holders

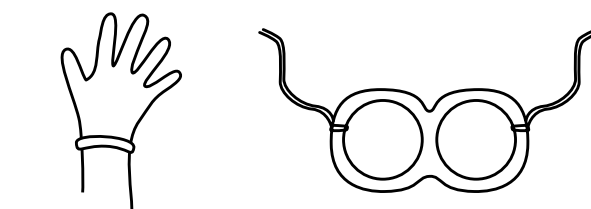
Cut apart a six-pack holder and you have six rings for ears, eyes and wrists.

### Materials:

plastic six-pack holder  
scissors  
yarn or string

### Procedure:

1. Cut individual sections from a six-pack holder and trim to make complete circles. Use these in dramatic play as bracelets.



2. Cut two circles from the end of a six-pack holder — do not separate them. Tie an 18-inch piece of yarn on each side. Tie these around a child’s head to make a pair of goofy glasses.

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## String-Along Reusables

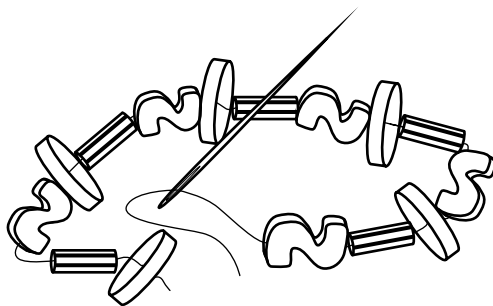
Make necklaces or garlands for holiday decoration.

### Materials:

plastic bottle caps  
polystyrene packing pieces  
drinking straws cut to various lengths  
long pieces of colored string  
large needles (2-inches long)

### Procedure:

1. Before class, pound a hole in each of the plastic bottle caps with a hammer and nail.



2. Help children thread a needle.

3. Let children string the packing pieces, bottle caps and straw pieces together on the colored string.

CAUTION: small pieces may be swallowed by young children. Only do this activity with older children and under strict supervision.

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## Soda Bottle Greenhouses\*

This can be a group project in which children can work together to build a greenhouse and learn what plants need to grow.

### Materials:

two-liter clear plastic soda bottle  
small stones  
potting soil  
scissors  
plant seeds or small plants that like lots of moisture  
water

### Procedure:

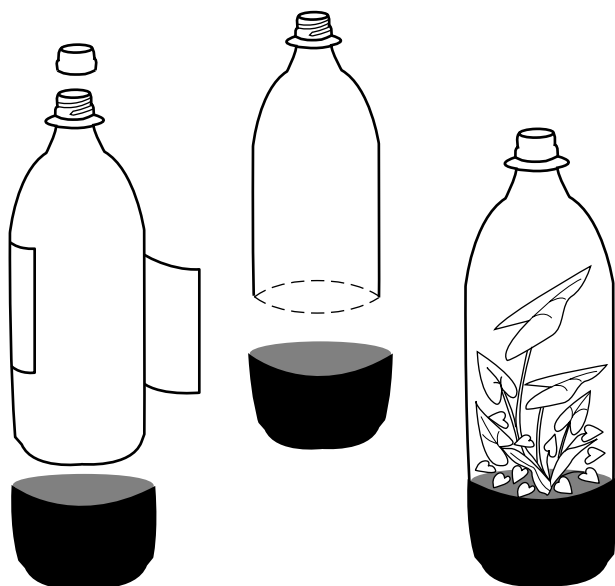
1. One bottle is needed for each greenhouse. To remove the label, fill the bottle one quarter full with hot tap water. Screw the cap back on firmly. Tip the bottle on its side so that the hot water warms the area where the label is attached to the bottle — this will soften the heat sensitive glue. Slowly peel the label from the bottle.

2. To separate the bottle from its base, tip the bottle upright so the hot water warms the glue holding the bottle to the base. Hold the bottle tightly and slowly twist off the base. Empty the water from the bottle and then screw the cap back on tightly.

3. With a sharp scissors, cut around the “hip” of the bottle to remove the top from the rounded end. The rounded end can be recycled or reused in another craft project.

4. Use the base of the bottle for the “pot.” Have your children put small stones in the bottom of the base to help with drainage. Next have them add enough potting soil to almost fill the base.

5. Help them plant their seeds or small plants. Let them pack the soil over the seeds or around the plants and add a little water.



6. Help each of them place the upper portion of the bottle on top of the base. Twist slightly to work the clear edge into the soil about one quarter inch. Place the small greenhouses on a window ledge where they can get some, but not too much, sunlight.

7. Caring for the greenhouse is easy. If the bottle cap remains screwed in place, the greenhouse should be self-watering. If too much condensation develops on the inside of the bottle wall, remove the cap for a few hours and then screw it back on. If the plants do not appear to have enough water, remove the cap and add a little water through the opening. Screw the cap back on tightly.

8. Check the greenhouse two times a week with your children. Make a chart to record childrens' observations of plant growth and moisture content.

\* Adapted from: Bottle Biology Resources Network (see “Resources”).

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## Coin-Keeper Creatures\*

Reusing “trash” for crafts is like money in the bank.

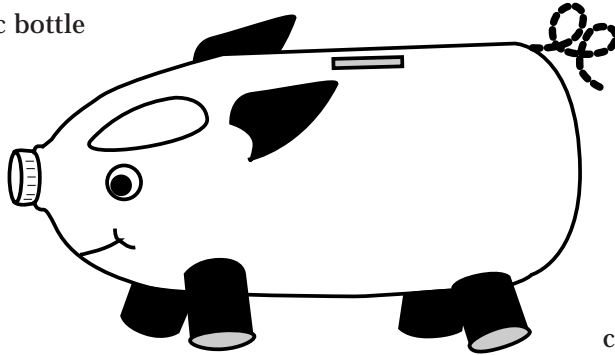
### Materials:

plastic one-gallon bottles from bleach, juice or vinegar (they should have a screw-type cap)  
film canisters or plastic bottle caps  
pipe cleaners  
scraps of paper  
glue  
scissors  
markers

### Procedure:

1. Clean bottles thoroughly.
2. Give each child a bottle.

Tell your children to look at the bottle and imagine what creature the bottle looks like. Suggest laying the bottle on its side or turning it upside down. They may see a pig, a cow or maybe a monster. Once the child decides, help him/her to create the animal.



3. Children can cut features from construction paper and glue them onto the bottle, or features can be drawn on with a marker.

4. To make a curly tail, twist a pipe cleaner around a pencil and then slide it off. With the tip of a scissors poke a hole for the tail at the base of the bottle. Stick the pipe cleaner tail into the hole and secure it with a drop of glue.

5. Cut a slot, large enough to fit a fifty cent piece in, on the upper portion of the bottle.

6. Glue film canisters or plastic bottle caps on the bottom of the bottle for legs.

7. Feed coins to your coin-keeper creature. If you want your coins back, just unscrew the cap and dump them out.

\* Adapted from: Nature's Recyclers Activity Guide (see “Resources”).

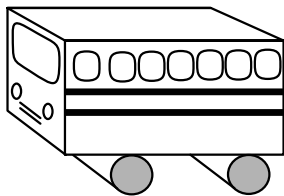
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## Wee-Mobile

All aboard the Wee-mobile!

### Materials:

clean paperboard milk carton (quart or half gallon size) or rectangular tissue box  
large paper bags cut open and flattened  
toilet paper rolls  
glue  
scissors  
tape  
crayons or markers



### Procedure:

1. Press in the milk carton spout and tape it flat.
2. Cut a paper bag along several of the seams to open it flat. Help each child wrap the milk carton or tissue box with the paper bag and tape it in place.
3. Let children design their Wee-mobile with crayons or markers. Glue toilet paper tubes to the bottom of the vehicle to make wheels.
5. Discuss with your children what the Wee-mobiles could be used for.

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## Bird Feeder

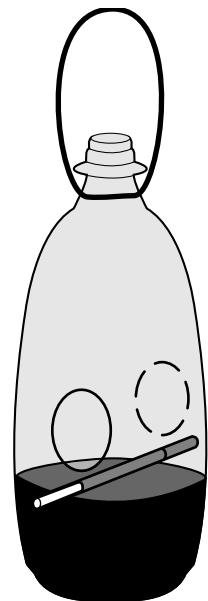
Reusing is for the birds.

### Materials:

plastic two-liter soda bottles  
eight-inch stick or dowels (1/4" diameter)  
birdseed  
craft knife  
nail  
hole punch  
thin wire

### Procedure:

1. Use a craft knife to cut two three-inch holes across from each other near the base of a two-liter bottle.
2. Make a small hole with a hole punch one inch below each larger hole.
3. Insert a stick or dowel through the two holes to make a perch.





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4. Poke small holes in the bottom of the bottle with a nail to let rain water drain out.

5. Poke two holes across from each other near the top of the bottle. Thread the wire through the holes and twist the ends together to make a hanger.

6. Children can help fill the feeders with birdseed.

7. Hang a feeder in a tree near a classroom

window. Make a chart to keep near the window to record how many birds come to dine. Note which species are most common. Look these species up in a bird book to learn more about their habits.

8. Send a copy of these directions home with each child so that they can make feeders with their families.

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## Classy Covers

Create beautiful sun catchers and ornaments to display throughout the year.

### Materials:

clear covers from yogurt cups, deli containers or

pre-packaged lunch meats

scraps of colored tissue paper

permanent markers

white glue

hole punch

pieces of yarn or ribbon

### Procedure:

1. Let your children tear colored tissue paper into small pieces and glue the pieces onto the clear plastic cover in a design or collage. Variation: Use permanent markers to draw a design onto the plastic surface.

3. Punch a hole near the rim of the cover. Thread a piece of yarn or ribbon through the hole and tie the ends together.



4. Hang the classy covers in a window or on a holiday tree.

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## Snow, Fur, Wool\*

Ever wonder what to do with all those polystyrene packing pieces? Turn them into “snow”, “fur” or “wool”.

### Materials:

scissors

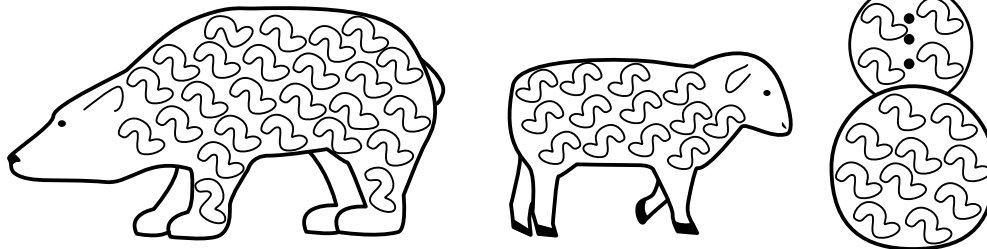
large sheet of paper

glue

polystyrene packing pieces

markers

crayons



### Procedure:

1. Draw the outline of an animal or object that is usually white on the large sheet of paper. Give this to your children.

2. Have your children color in eyes, nose, mouth, hooves, claws, etc., with markers. Let them glue

packing pieces onto the paper to make white “snow,” “fur” or “wool.”

\* CAUTION: small pieces may be swallowed by young children. Only do this activity with older children and under strict supervision.

# Egg Carton Creations — A Dozen Ideas

In most communities, eggs come in one of two types of cartons: molded paper or polystyrene. Either type will work well in craft activities. Here are some helpful hints to keep in mind when preparing for an activity: A sturdy pair of scissors will be needed to cut egg-cartons apart; a pair of curved manicure scissors is best for cutting small details. Molded paper cartons have a surface that is easy to color with crayons, markers or water-based paints. Polystyrene cartons have a surface into which designs can easily be etched with a simple tool — experiment with a fingernail, screw, pencil, fork or the end of a drinking straw. Any water-based coloring will be difficult to add to the waxy surface. Try mixing a few drops of detergent with water-based paints — this will allow the paint to stick to the surface. Crayons work to a limited extent.

The following are directions for specific egg carton creations. We encourage you and your children to experiment and create different creatures. You may want to use this activity as an opportunity to teach about insects and flowers and their interesting features.

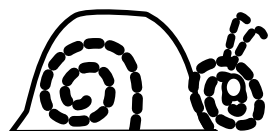
## General Materials:

work area covered with newspaper  
used egg cartons  
scissors  
glue  
crayons and markers  
paints and brushes  
used twist ties  
pipe cleaners  
scraps of colored paper  
pieces of ribbon or yarn  
hole punch  
film canisters, spools or small round pill bottles  
decorations: straws, toothpicks, seeds, dry cereals,  
small buttons, fabric scraps, sequins, glitter,  
feathers.  
art aprons

Note: Adults may have to cut and trim cartons for young children ahead of time.

## Snail

1. Cut out and trim one egg section of a carton. Have children color and decorate the snail “shell.”
2. Take a twist tie and coil it. Fit the straight end of the twist tie up under the lower edge of the shell and secure it in place with a small piece of tape.



4. Cut a twist tie in half and fold that in half. Push one end through the upper portion of the coiled twist tie and pull it until the fold is half way through. These are the snail’s antennae.

## Mushroom

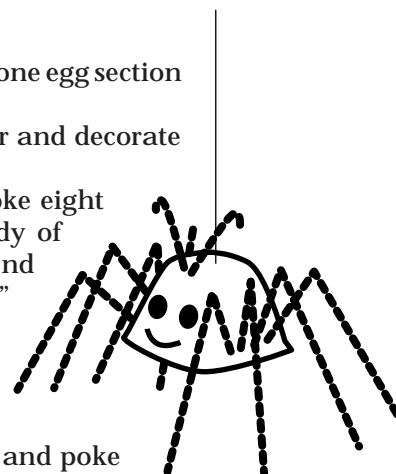
1. Cut out and trim one egg section of a carton for the “cap” of the mushroom. Let children color and decorate the cap.
2. Take a film canister, spool or small round pill bottle and put glue around the rim.
3. Press the mushroom cap



on top of the glued rim and hold it in place for a minute or so. Set the mushroom in a place where it won’t get bumped to dry.

## Spider

1. Cut out and trim one egg section of a carton.
2. Let children color and decorate the spider.
4. Help children poke eight twist ties into the body of the spider for legs. Bend each piece into an “L” shape.
5. To hang the spider from a “web”, thread a needle with thread or fishing line and poke the needle up through the middle of the spider from the bottom. Secure the line inside with a piece of tape.





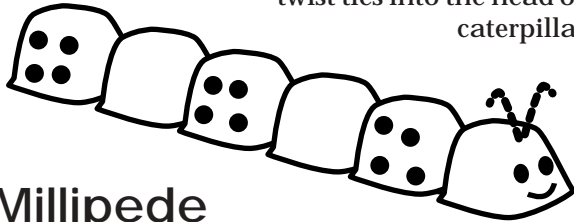
## Caterpillar

1. Cut the bottom of an egg carton in half lengthwise to make a caterpillar with six humps. Trim rough edges.

2. Explain to children how to use a hole punch. Let them practice punching circles out of colored paper. They can use these circles for eyes or decoration.

3. Encourage children to decorate their caterpillar's humps with a variety of materials.

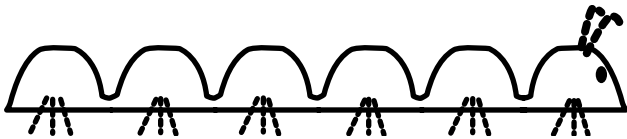
4. Help children make antennae by poking two twist ties into the head of the caterpillar.



## Millipede

1. To make a millipede, follow the directions for making a caterpillar.

2. Add legs to the millipede by breaking 18 toothpicks in half and poking six pieces into each section. (Three on each side.)



## Wee Bee

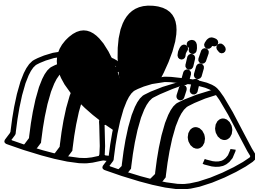
1. Cut out and trim a two-egg section of a carton.

2. Color the bee yellow if you wish. Black stripes can be drawn on with crayon or cut from black paper and glued on.

3. Help children cut out wings and glue them to the body of the bee.

4. Punch out two dots from black paper and glue them in place for eyes. Draw in a mouth.

5. Help children make antennae by poking two twist ties into the head of the bee.



## Flowers

1. Cut an egg carton into 12 separate egg sections and trim around the edges. Each section will be a flower.

2. Give children one section to work on at a time. Let them cut several slits and small indentations around the edge to form the petals of the flower.

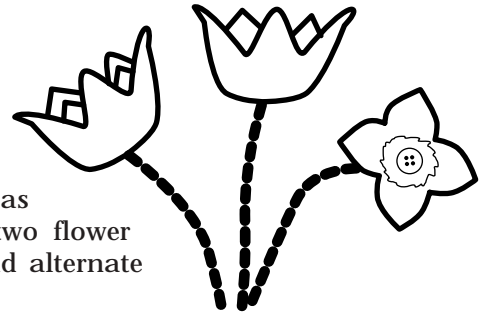
3. They may color the flower inside and out.

4. Help children make a stem. Poke a pipe cleaner up through the bottom center of the flower. Bend the top one quarter inch over and tape to keep it in place.

5. For the center of the flower, let children glue a ball of tissue paper, a bead or button in the middle of the flower.

## Double Flowers

To make fuller flowers, follow the same directions as above but stack two flower heads together and alternate the petals.

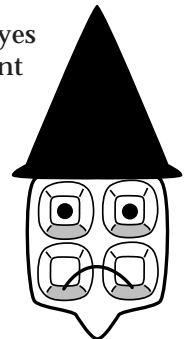
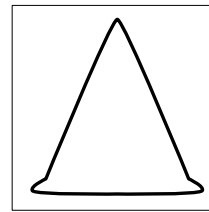
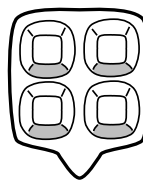


## Witches

1. Cut one egg carton into three parts to make three witches. Each part should contain four egg sections.

2. Help children draw and cut out a tall, pointed witches hat from black construction paper. Glue it to the top edge of the witches head.

3. Let children color big, black eyes and a turned down mouth using paint or crayons.



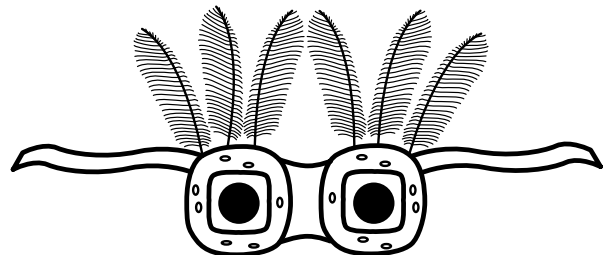
## Egg Carton Eyes

1. Cut out two individual egg sections. In each, cut out a circle in the bottom to make the eye holes.

2. Let children color and decorate the egg sections with sequins and feathers.

3. Cut a piece of ribbon long enough to tie around a child's head. Staple the egg sections to the ribbon so that they fit over the child's eyes.

4. Wrap the ribbon around the child's forehead and tie it in the back.

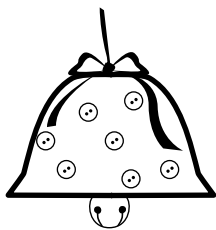


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## Holiday Bells

### Additional Materials:

small jingle bells



1. Cut out and trim one egg section of a carton.
2. Tie a small jingle bell to the end of a piece of yarn or ribbon.
3. About an inch up from the bell make a double knot in the yarn or ribbon.
4. Poke a hole in the bottom of the egg carton section using the pointed end of a scissors or a sharp

pencil. The hole should be big enough for the yarn or ribbon to thread through, but small enough to not allow the knot to pass through.

5. Thread the empty end of the yarn or ribbon through the hole in the egg carton and slide it down until the “bell” rests on the knot.

6. Let children decorate the outside of the bell with crayons, glitter and sequins.

7. Sing “Recycling is the Way” to the tune of “Jingle Bells”. (See “Sing for Recycling” in Wee Recyclers Activity Guide.)

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## Seedling Starter\*

### Additional Materials:

potting soil

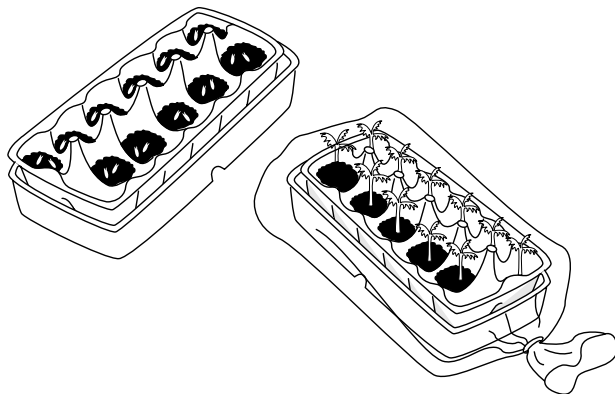
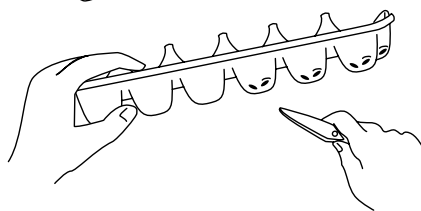
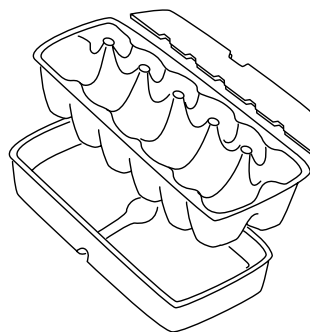
seeds (rye grass or carrot seeds grow quickly)

water

plastic bag and twist tie

1. Cut an egg carton in half, using the top side for a tray to trap drainage, and the egg section side for potting soil and seeds.
2. Help children make two or three holes with a sharp pencil in the bottom of each egg section for drainage.
3. Let children fill each egg section with a small amount of potting soil. Set the egg section in the drainage tray.
4. Help children plant a few seeds in each section according to package directions and water the potting soil slightly.
5. Place the entire egg carton in a clear plastic bag and close it with a twist tie.
6. Set the cartons in a sunny window. Maintain moisture in the bag so seedlings don’t dry out.
5. When plants are big enough, transplant them outside or to a bigger container.

\* Adapted from: Let’s Put Waste In It’s Place (see “Resources”).



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## Going Beyond:

- Create a flower garden. Stick the stems of many egg carton flowers into a hard piece of “styrofoam” that is colored green. Place egg carton creatures on the ground around the flowers.
- For a Mother’s Day gift, make three to five egg carton flowers with stems. Arrange them in a decorated container. (See “Wee Reusables” for decorated container instructions.)
- Use styrofoam egg cartons to hold small amounts of different colored paints.
- Egg cartons make great organizers of small things like beans, buttons, seeds, shells or stones.
- See “Wee Printers” for printing with “styrofoam”.

# Wee Printers —Making their mark in the world!

Print making is a wonderful way to learn shapes and colors. Experiment with different materials to print on and to print with. Let children discover the many shapes that different sides and angles of one object can make. Encourage children to experiment with different objects and colors. What happens when colors are mixed or shapes are printed on top of one another? Use the printed creations to make wall coverings, personalized cards and gift wrap.

## Block Printing

### Materials:

paper (scrap paper, shelf paper, tissue paper, construction paper)  
paints or inks (poster paints, finger paints, acrylics, ink pads)  
paint brushes or old tooth brushes  
shallow containers for paint (margarine tubs, foil pans, meat packing trays)  
work area covered with newspaper  
painting aprons or old button-down shirts

### Objects to print with:

half onion	sponge	erasers
half potato	coins	fork
carrot	soda can	match box
celery	spools	corks
citrus fruit	nuts/bolts	fingers
apple	toothbrush	buttons
fern leaf	potato masher	screws
pine branch	toothpaste cap	
corn cob	extract bottle	spice can
cookie cutters	wooden clothes pin	

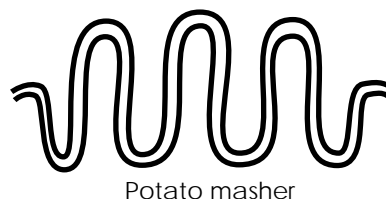
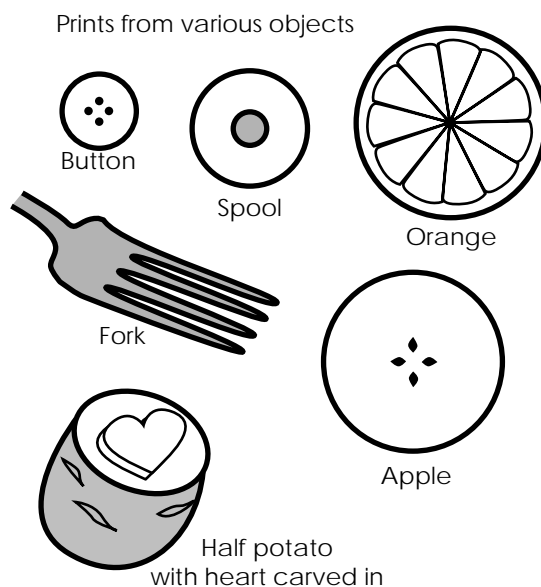
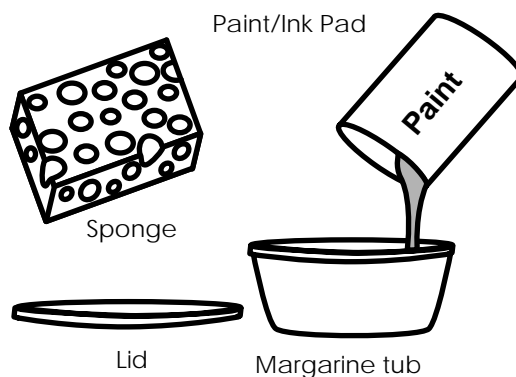
### To make your own “ink” pads\*:

1. Cut a piece of sponge to fit inside a small margarine tub or other small container with a lid.
2. Mix two parts poster paint with one part white glue. The glue makes the paint stick better to the printers and the paper.
3. Pour the mixture over the sponge and add a little extra in the container.

### To print:

1. Ink objects by pressing them on the paint-filled sponge.
2. If the pad starts to dry out, add a little water to the container.
3. When you're done printing, cover the container with its lid and save until the next time you print.

\*Adapted from: Toy Book (see “Resources”).



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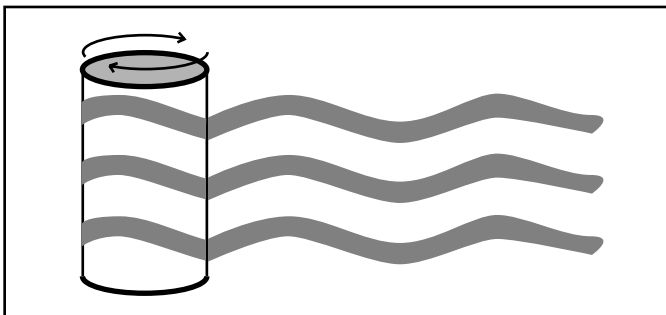
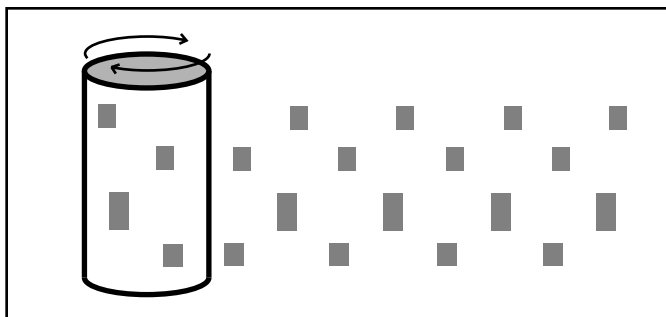
## Roller Printing

### Materials:

rollers (paperboard juice cans, tin cans with their labels on, paperboard tubes) string, fabric scraps, rubber bands, etc.  
poster paint  
glue  
cookie sheet or meat packing trays  
paper to print on

### Procedure:

1. Pour poster paint onto a cookie sheet or meat packing tray to spread paint thin.
2. Let children glue scraps of string, material or rubber pieces onto the roller.
3. When glue is dry, have children roll the roller through a thin layer of paint and then across a piece of paper to make a repeating pattern.



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## Polystyrene Printing

### Materials:

polystyrene material (from egg-carton covers or meat packing trays)  
scissors  
pencil  
ink pad  
paper to print on  
stencils or cookie cutters (optional)

### Procedure:

1. Let children draw a simple shape with a pointed pencil on a flat piece of polystyrene. (If a more exact shape is desired, trace a stencil or cookie cutter onto the polystyrene surface.)

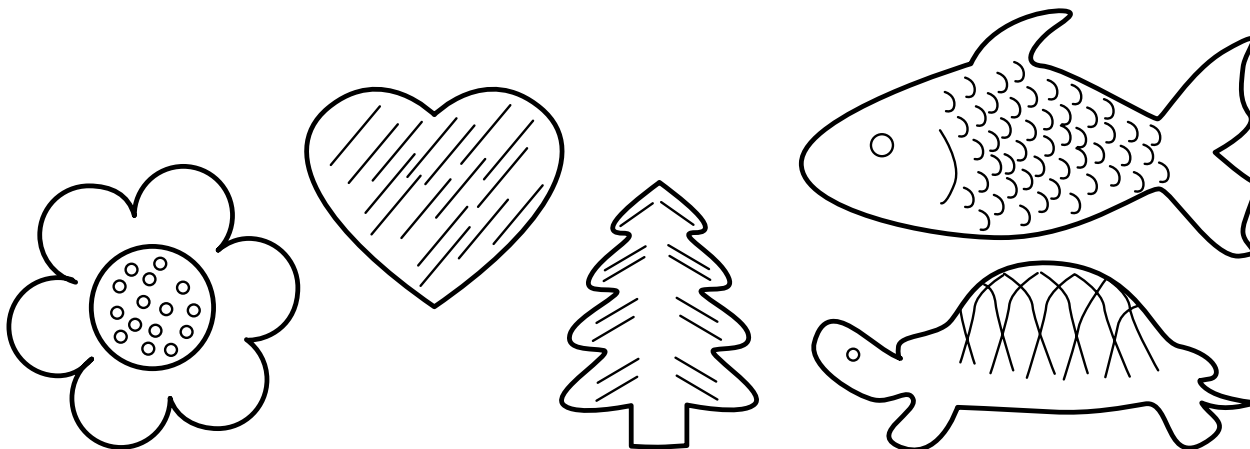
2. Help young children cut out the shape to make a stamp.

3. Children can etch a design into the stamp using a fingernail or pencil. Let them experiment making other designs using a fork, screw, bottle cap or the end of a straw.

4. Now the children are ready to print. Press the etched side of the stamp into the ink pad.

5. Place the inked side of the stamp down on paper, cover with a clean sheet of paper and press firmly.

6. This procedure can be repeated several times without having to re-ink the stamp each time.



# Puppets

Puppetry can be an effective and entertaining means for conveying simple messages. Use some of the puppets featured here to teach various activities found in the Wee Recyclers Activity Guide. Encourage children to speak their own messages through puppets. The puppets are made with a variety of reusable materials. Discuss with your children the materials being used, what the items were before becoming puppet parts, and what other items could be reused to make puppets.

## Paper Bag Puppets

### Materials:

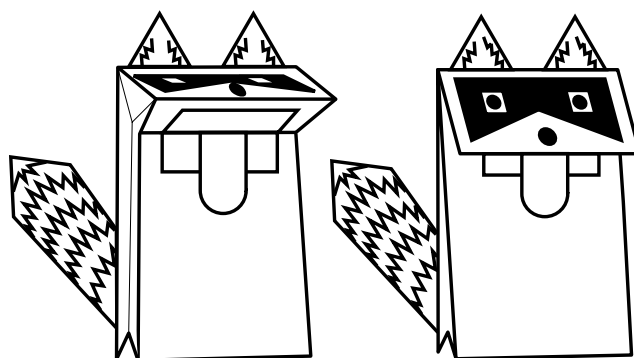
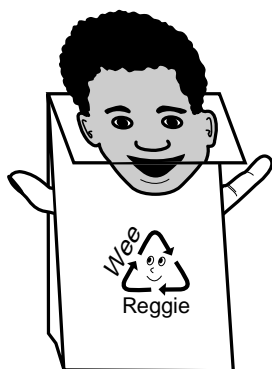
clean, used paper bags  
scissors  
glue  
scraps of construction paper  
pieces of yarn and ribbon  
crayons or markers  
buttons cut from old shirts  
paperboard tubes from paper toweling or food wrap  
patterns\*

\* Patterns for some of the puppets can be found in the Wee Recyclers Resources. These patterns are for a standard lunch bag that will fit an adult's hand. Little children will still be able to manipulate the "mouth" of the standard lunch bag, but they will not be able to use the finger holes for arms. You may want to look for smaller bags that will fit your children's hands and reduce the size of the patterns.

### Wee Reggie puppet

#### Procedure:

1. Find the patterns for Wee Reggie in the Wee Recyclers Resources, reproduce them and cut out.
2. Trace the patterns using crayons or markers.
3. Glue Reggie's head to the bottom of a small paper bag and glue the Wee Recycler logo to the front of the bag.
4. Insert your hand into the bag and mark where your "pinky" finger and thumb touch the side of the bag. Cut out two "arm" holes in the sides of the paper bag.
5. Your "pinky" finger and thumb will be Reggie's arms.



### Rocky Raccoon\*

#### Procedure:

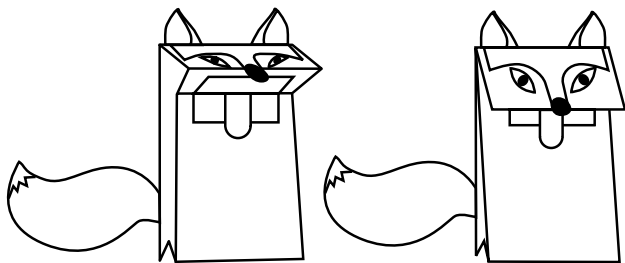
1. Find the patterns for Rocky Raccoon in the Wee Recyclers Resources.
2. Trace the patterns on pieces of colored construction paper and cut them out.
3. Glue the construction paper pieces in place on a small paper bag.
4. Use small dark buttons for the center of Rocky's eyes.
5. Use a brown and black crayon or marker to color the rings on Rocky's tail and the inside of his ears.
6. Insert your hand into the bag and mark where your "pinky" finger and thumb touch the side of the bag. Cut out two "arm" holes in the sides of the paper bag.
7. Your "pinky" finger and thumb will be Rocky's forepaws.

\* Adapted from materials developed by Karen Fiedler, Waukesha County Recycling Coordinator.

## Freddy Fox

### Procedure:

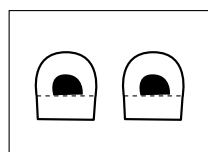
1. Find the patterns for Freddy Fox in the Wee Recyclers Resources.
2. Trace the patterns on pieces of colored construction paper and cut them out.
3. Glue the construction paper pieces in place on a small paper bag.
4. Using crayons, color the inside of Freddy's eyes yellow and shade the outside of his ears orange.
5. Insert your hand into the bag and mark where your "pinky" finger and thumb touch the side of the bag. Cut out two "arm" holes in the sides of the paper bag.
6. Your "pinky" finger and thumb will be Freddy's forepaws.



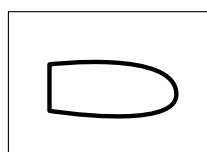
## Frog

### Procedure:

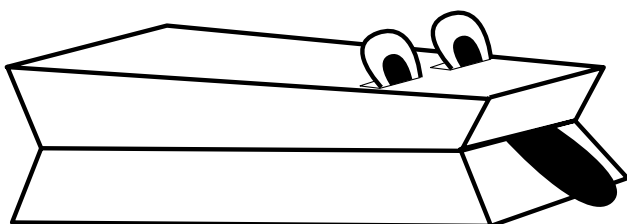
1. Take a small paper bag and fold the bottom of the bag in half. This is the frog's mouth.
2. Help children cut out a long tongue from construction paper and glue it to the bottom of the frog's mouth.
3. Cut out two half-circles from construction paper and make small folds along the straight edge to



Green eyes  
Color pupils black



Red tongue



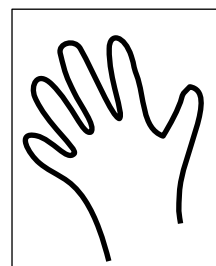
make tabs. Children can color in the pupil with a dark crayon and glue the eyes onto the bag so that they stand upright.

## Recycle Reindeer\*

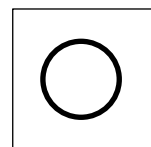
### Procedure:

1. Help children trace around their hand on a folded paper bag (two layers of paper). Cut out the hand shapes for the reindeer's antlers.
2. Help children glue the antlers onto the top of a second paper bag.
3. Let children cut out a nose, two eyes and spots from scraps of construction paper and glue them to the reindeer's body.

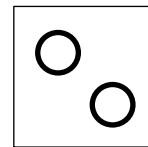
\* Adapted from: Project Pride, Second Edition (see "Resources").



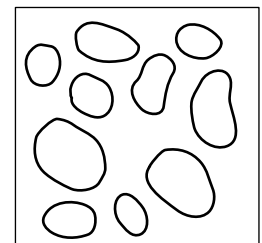
Brown Antlers



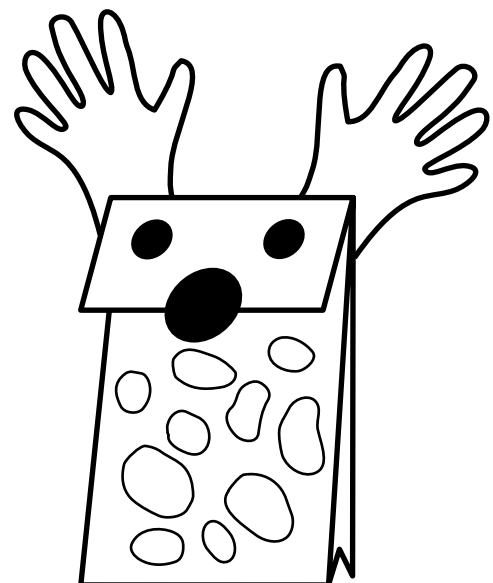
Red nose



Blue or black eyes



White Spots



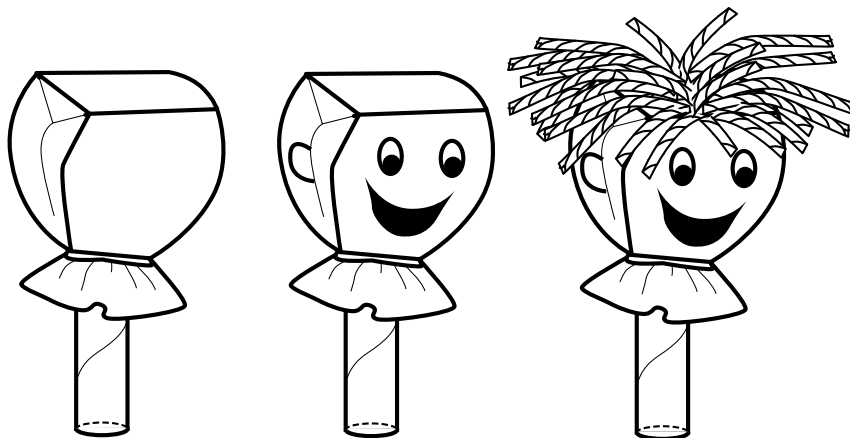


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## Wee Recycler

### Procedure:

1. Have your children draw a face on a small paper bag with crayons, or cut facial features from scraps of construction paper and glue them in place.
2. Open a small paper bag and let children stuff it tightly with wads of newspaper.
3. Insert a paperboard tube into the open end of the bag and tie the bag securely to the tube with a piece of string.
4. Help children cut yarn into short pieces and glue them to the bag for hair.
5. For a collar, cut the bottom of the bag into strips.



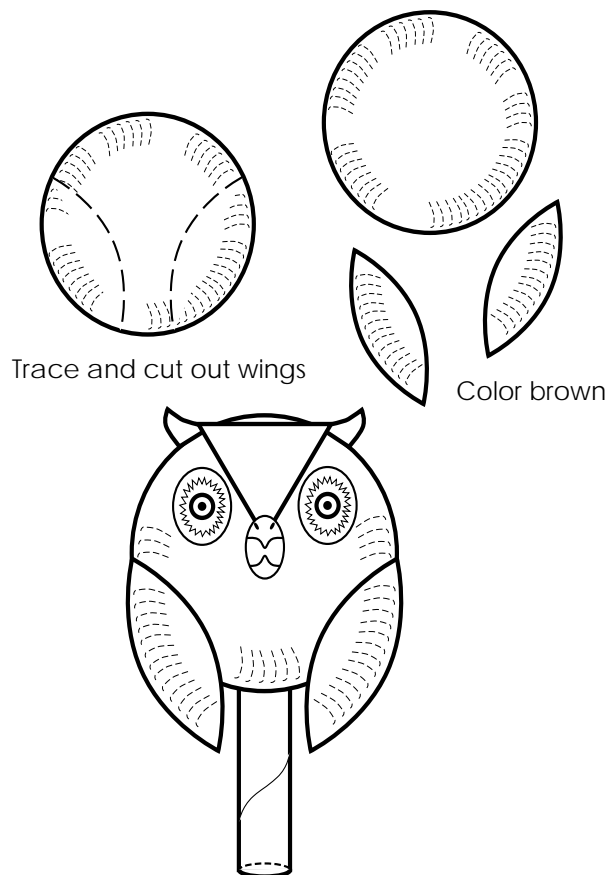
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## Paper Plate Puppets

### Materials:

unwanted paper plates  
scraps of construction paper  
pieces of yarn, ribbon, string  
buttons  
paperboard tubes  
scissors  
glue  
masking tape  
crayons  
patterns\*

\* Pattern for Oprah Owl found in the Wee Recyclers Resources.



### Oprah Owl

#### Procedure:

1. Two paper plates will be needed to make this puppet. Find the patterns for Oprah Owl in the Wee Recyclers Resources.
2. Trace all patterns (except the wings) onto scrap pieces of paper and color designated areas. Cut out the patterns.
3. Trace the wing pattern twice along the edge of a paper plate. Cut out the wings.
4. Color the wings and the second paper plate with brown and orange crayons.

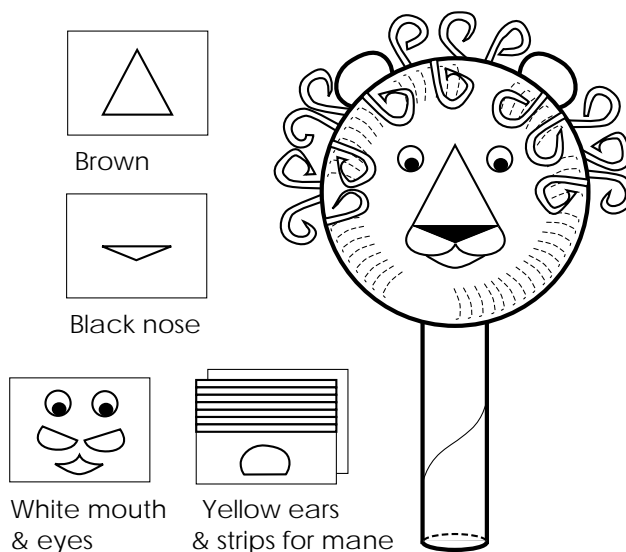
5. Glue the construction paper pieces and wings in place on the whole paper plate.
6. Attach a paperboard tube to the back of the plate using masking tape.

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## Recycle Lion

### Procedure:

1. Let children color a paper plate yellow or gold.
2. Help children trace and cut out circles, half-circles and triangles from scraps of construction paper to make Recycle Lion's face. Help them glue the shapes onto the paper plate as shown in the picture.
3. To make Recycle Lion's mane, cut rectangular strips of yellow construction paper. Show children how to roll each strip around a pencil to make it curl. Have children glue the curled strips around the edge of the paper plate. Variations: Yarn or ribbon may also be used to make the mane.
4. Attach a paperboard tube to the back of the plate using masking tape.

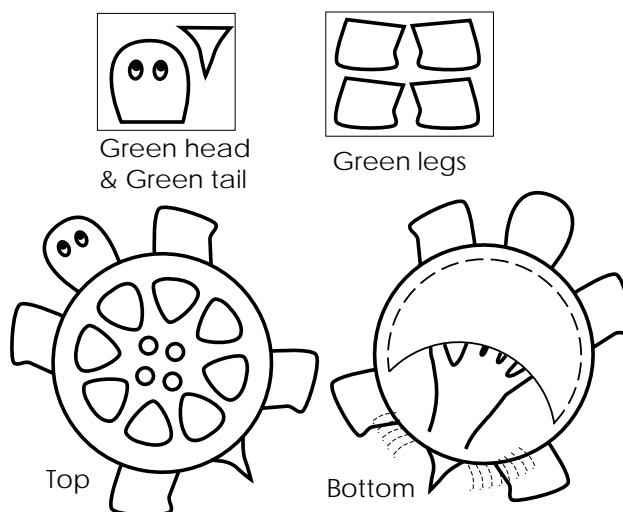


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## Turtle

### Procedure:

1. One and a half paper plates will be needed to make each turtle. On the back of one paper plate, let children draw a turtle shell design with green crayons.
2. Help children cut out a head, tail and legs for the turtle from green paper. Glue these pieces to the under edge of the shell.
4. Cut a second paper plate in half and staple or glue one half to the bottom of the turtle shell so that a pocket is formed in which to insert your hand.

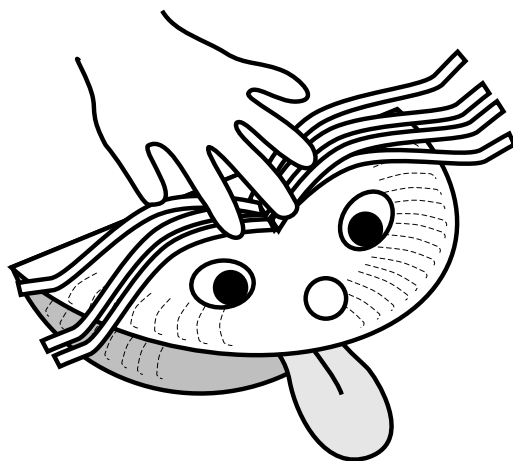


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## Big Mouth

### Procedure:

1. Help children fold a paper plate in half.
2. Have children cut out features from scraps of paper and glue them to the paper plate. Glue on pieces of yarn or ribbon for hair.
4. Children should place their thumb on the lower half of the plate, and their fingers on the top half. Open and close the hand to open and close the mouth.



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## Mitten or Sock Puppets\*

### Materials:

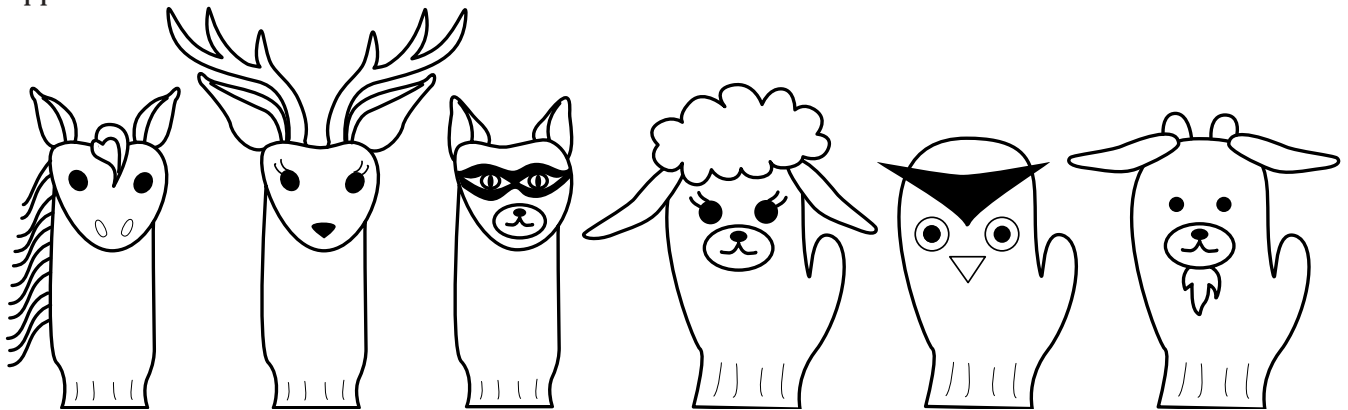
worn-out socks or mittens  
felt or material scraps  
construction paper scraps  
yarn scraps  
scissors  
glue  
buttons  
needle and thread



### Procedure:

Using scraps of paper, felt, and yarn, glue or sew features onto socks or mittens to make a variety of puppets.

\* Adapted from: Project Pride, Second Edition (see "Resources").



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## Toilet Paper Tube Puppets

### Materials:

toilet paper tubes  
scraps of construction paper  
yarn scraps  
scissors  
glue  
crayons or markers  
pipe cleaners or drinking straws

4. Cut strips of paper for whiskers and glue them in place.

5. Insert fingers into the bottom of the tube to make the bunny hop.

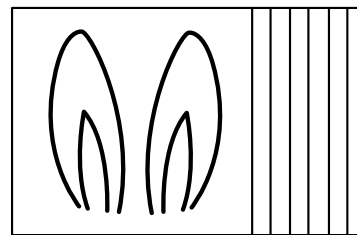
### Recycle Bunny

#### Procedure:

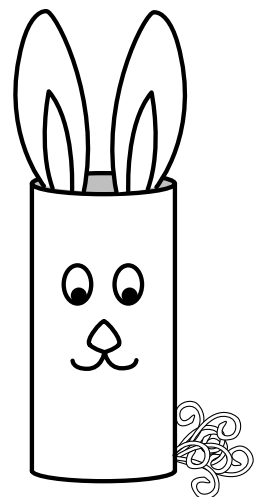
1. Let children use a crayon or marker to draw a rabbit face near the top of the toilet paper tube. The rest of the bunny can also be colored.

2. Help children cut two long ears from construction paper and glue them to the inside upper edge of the tube.

3. Children can glue a cotton ball on the lower back edge of the tube for a tail.



White paper for ears  
and strips for tail



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## Tube Tots

### Procedure:

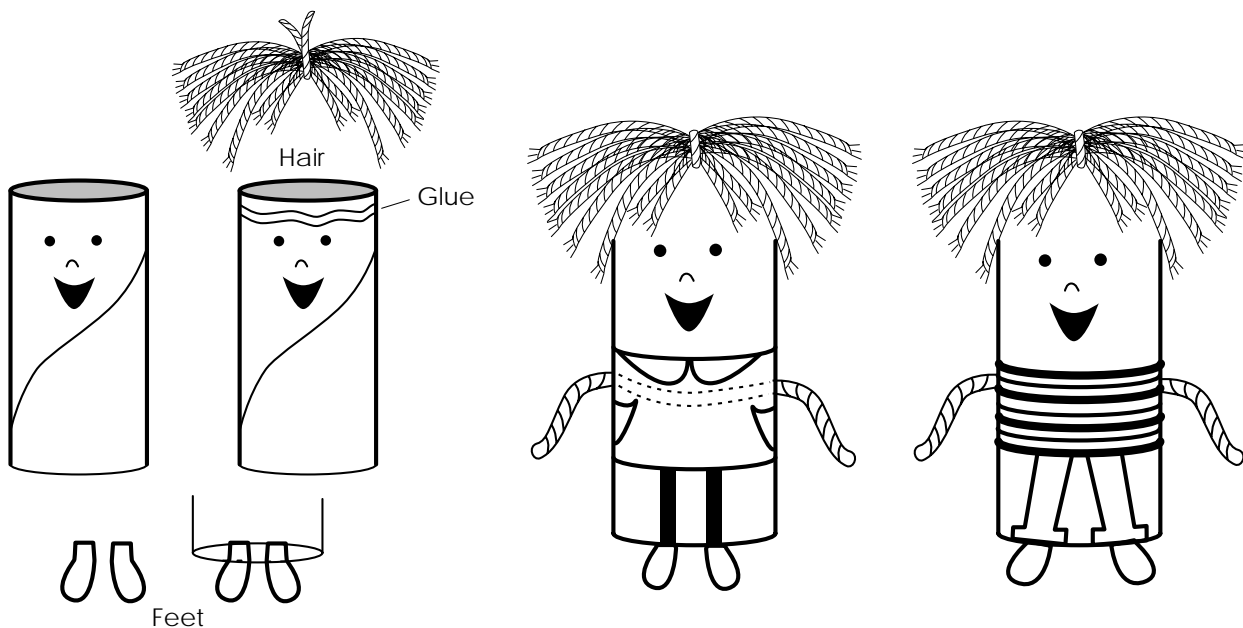
1. Let children draw a face near the top of the tube and color in the rest of the tube using crayons or markers.

2. Help children make hair. Cut 20 pieces of yarn about five inches long. Lay pieces of yarn together on a flat surface and tie them together in the middle with another piece of yarn. Children can spread glue around the upper edge of tube. Place the yarn bundle on top of the tube and spread the yarn out around the top of the tube. Press the yarn down so that it adheres to the glue. Trim long strands away from the face.

4. To make arms, poke two small holes on either side of the tube about half way down. Insert a 5-inch long pipe cleaner or straw into one hole and out the other. Let children bend ends to form hands.

5. Optional feet: Cut two strips of construction paper about one and one half inches long. Round off one end of each strip. Glue the straight end of the strips inside the tube and bend the rounded ends upwards.

6. To work puppets, insert fingers into bottom of tube.



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## Finger Puppets

### Materials:

poster board or heavy construction paper  
scissors (and a small manicure scissors)  
crayons or markers

## Wee Recycler

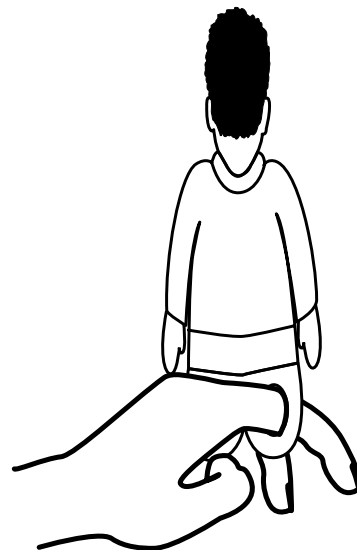
### Procedure:

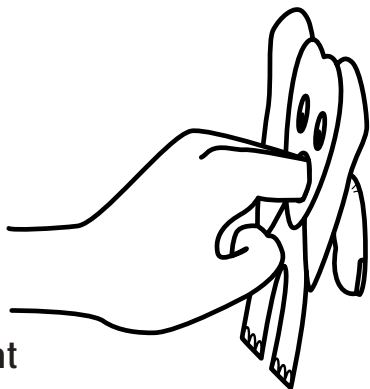
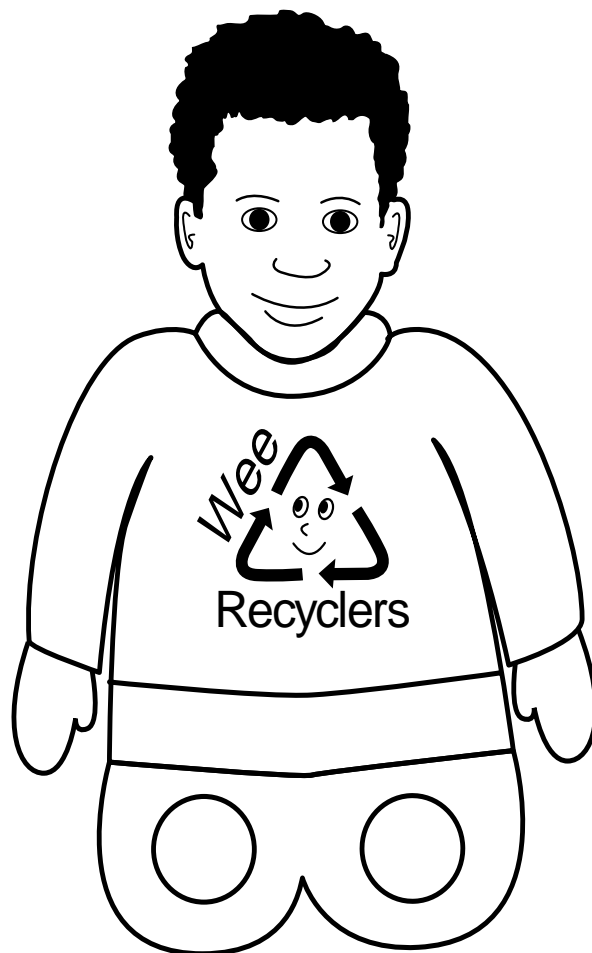
1. Trace the Wee Recycler pattern onto a piece of poster board and cut it out.

2. Use manicure scissors to cut out finger holes.

3. Use crayons or markers to color face, hair and clothes.

4. Fingers form legs when the puppet is operated.

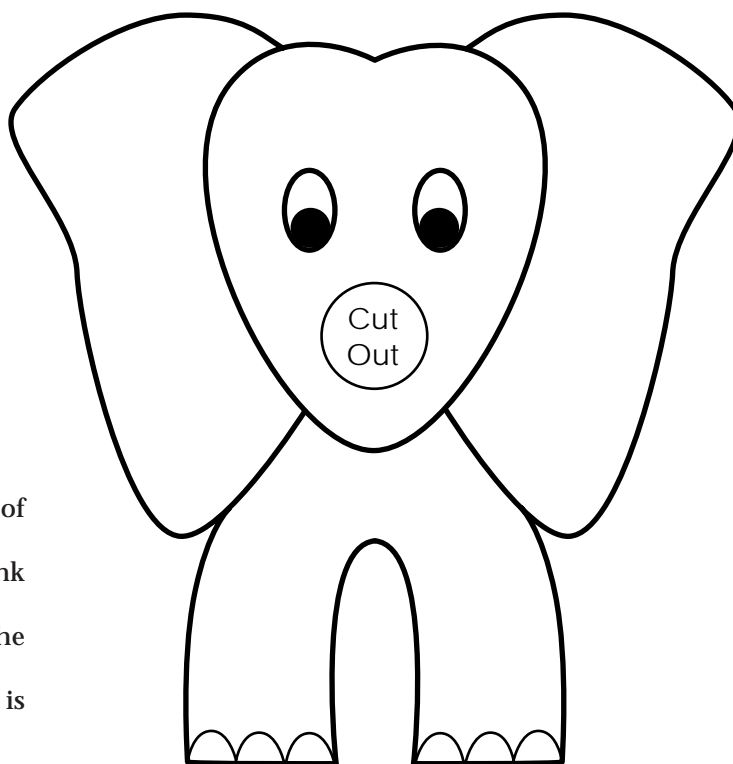




## Elephant

### Procedure:

1. Trace the elephant pattern onto a piece of poster board and cut it out.
2. Use a manicure scissors to cut out the trunk hole.
3. Use crayons to draw a face and to color the elephant.
4. A finger forms the trunk when the puppet is operated.



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## “Clamshell” Puppets\*

### Materials:

polystyrene or paperboard “clamshell”  
packages from fast food establishments  
yarn or ribbon  
scraps of construction paper or material  
scissors  
glue

### Procedure:

1. Sandwich-size clamshells make good puppets but may be too large for childrens’ hands to manipulate. Look for smaller clamshells to fit little hands. Sometimes biscuits or muffins come in these.

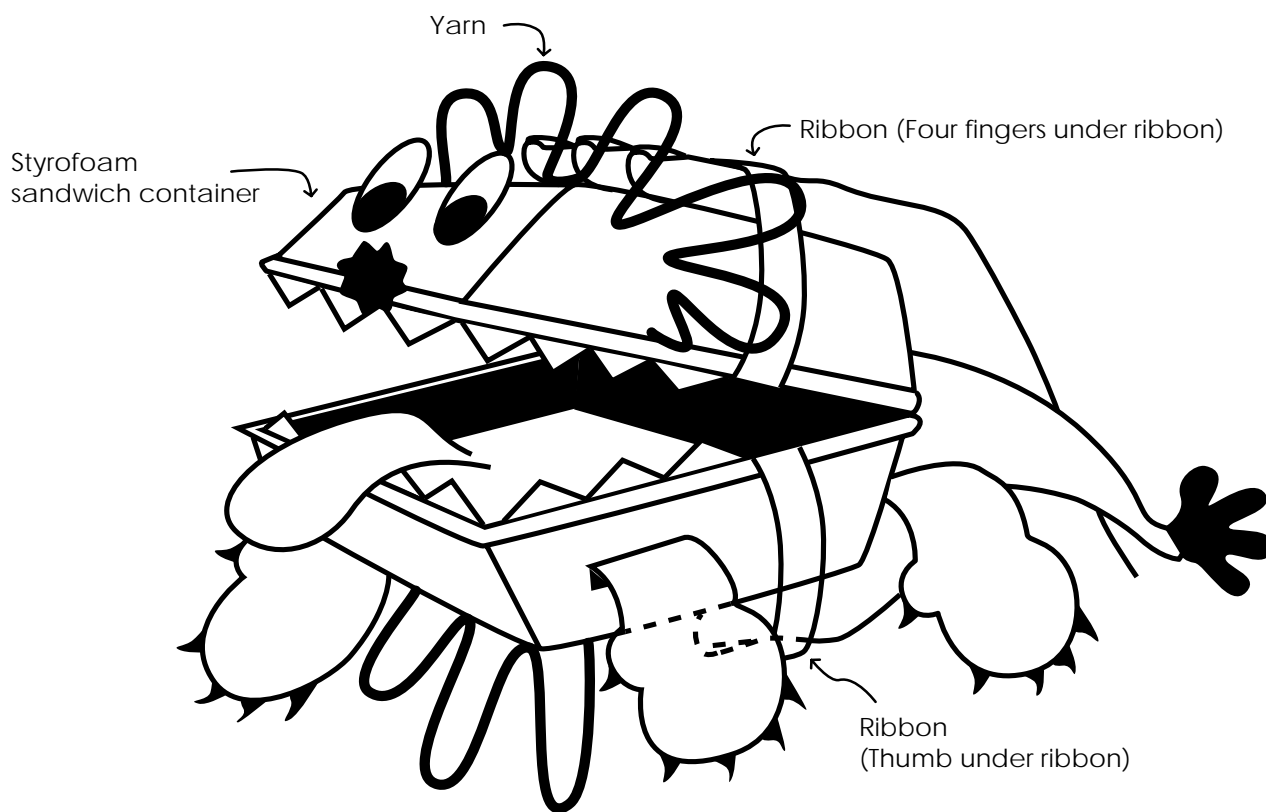
2. Cut a length of ribbon or yarn that will wrap around the clamshell one and one half times. Cut

the piece in half. Wrap one piece around the upper half and the other around the lower half of the clamshell. Secure all loose ends inside the clamshell with glue or tape. Leave enough slack between the clamshell and ribbon to insert fingers.

3. Let children cut out and glue facial features, horns, thorns, claws and hair to the clamshell to create their animals, creatures or monsters.

4. Insert four fingers under the loop on the upper half of the clamshell and the thumb under the loop on the lower half of the clamshell. Open and close your hand to make the puppet talk.

\* Adapted from: R.O.A.R. (see “Resources”).





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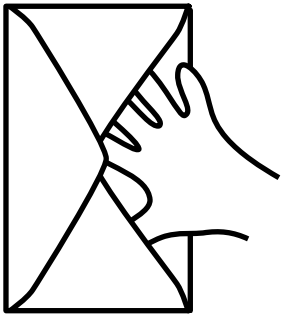
## Envelope Puppets \*

### Materials:

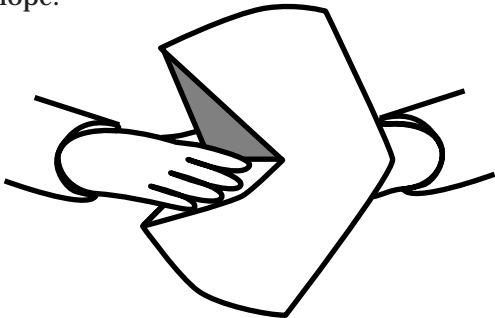
used envelopes (from junk mail)  
crayons or markers  
scraps of paper or paperboard  
paper plates  
pom pom

### Procedure:

1. To make the head, put flap of envelope inside and slide hand into corners of envelope.



2. To form mouth, “bite” your other hand with the envelope.

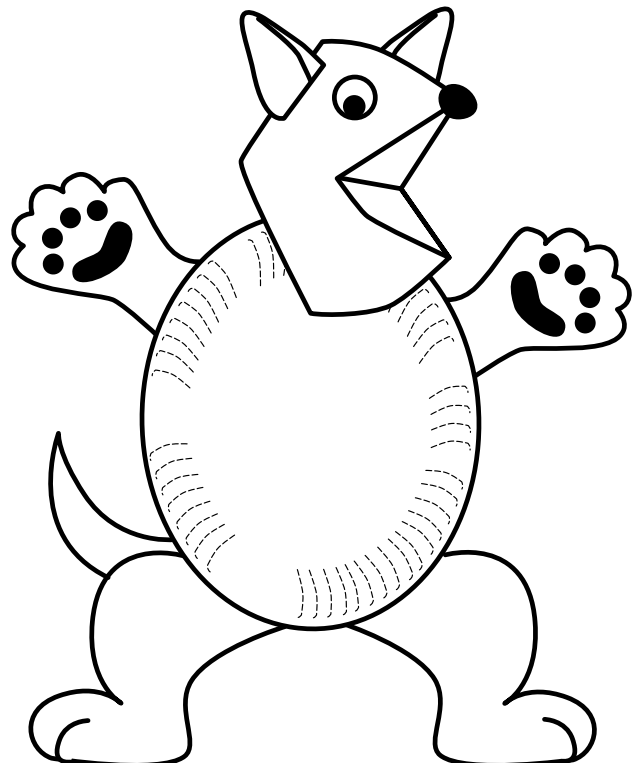
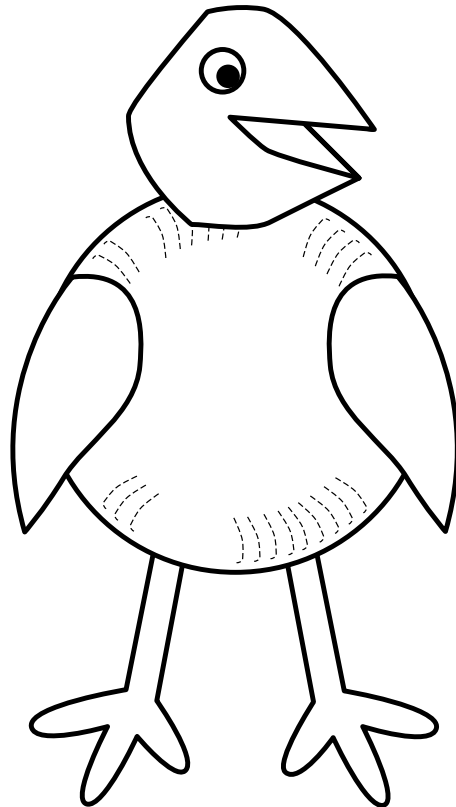


3. Let children draw a face onto the top of the envelope using crayons or markers.

4. Attach a paper plate to the bottom of the envelope for a body.

5. Help children cut out arms, legs, wings, ears or a tail from paper or paperboard. Glue them to the paper plate and envelope.

\* Adapted from: R.O.A.R. (see “Resources”).



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# Our City

Children are naturally inquisitive, creative, good observers and full of colorful imaginations. This activity encourages the use of these skills. As you get ready to create the model city (town or neighborhood), take several days to observe a “real” city. If possible, take a walking tour, read stories or look at pictures of cities. Make picture charts of the different “parts” of a city and refer to these as the model is developed.

## Materials:

large piece of sturdy cardboard or an old window shade for a base  
art supplies as needed  
large variety of cartons, boxes, paper tubes, packaging \*  
scraps of paper or any recyclable or reusable items  
\*(See listing of items in the Parent Letter at the end of the “Wee Recycling Center” in Wee Recyclers Activity Guide.)

## Procedure:

1. Designate a table or out-of-the-way area to build the model city. (Setting aside a large space may be a problem for many facilities. If this is the case, divide the children into groups to work on several smaller cities or neighborhoods.)

2. Plan to build your city over several days or sessions. During each session a certain component of the city can be built. Consider these components:

- Streets
- Houses
- Important Buildings
- People
- Vehicles
- Nature
- Other ideas

3. Brainstorm with your children; find out what they know about a city. Ask them, what is a city? What things are in a city? Where do we find a city? Write or draw their ideas on a chalkboard or large piece of paper. Next, take your children on a short walk around your neighborhood. Have them look for things not already on the list. When you return, add newly discovered things to the list. Show your children the base or “ground” on which their city will be built and explain that this is where they will create their own special city together.

## Streets

Take a walk outside and look at the streets in the neighborhood. You may also want to show the children pictures of streets in magazines and books. Ask your children some of the following questions: Are the streets straight or winding? What color are they? What are they used for? For young children, outline the street(s) for them on the base. Everyone should participate in filling in the streets. Use paints, crayons or markers to add color. Or “paint” glue with your finger over the surface and cover with sand, dirt, coffee grounds or seeds. Try gluing in place scraps of brown paper bag or old newspapers.

## Houses

Take a walk outside and look at the different houses in the neighborhood. Discuss features such as doors, windows, chimneys, etc. Ask them what their houses look like. Help children make a pretend home that they would like to live in. For the houses, use pint and half gallon sized milk cartons cut in half. Try using small paperboard boxes leftover from food packaging or small gift boxes for apartment buildings or condominiums. Houses don’t have to have straight walls. Use margarine tubs or yogurt containers for futuristic homes. Cut out windows and doors or cover containers with paper and draw on windows doors, bricks, shutters, etc. Be creative with a roof covering and include a chimney made from a slice of paper tube. Add cotton smoke. Let the children decide where they would like to place their houses in the city.

## Important Buildings

Talk about other places or buildings that children may be familiar with in their neighborhoods or city. They may mention schools, churches, libraries, gas stations, stores and factories. Take a walk around town to look for these buildings. Make a list of the buildings seen. Back in the classroom, have children choose the type of building they would like to build. As with the houses, supply children with a variety of different sized boxes and containers to build structures. Suggest gluing different containers together for bigger and taller buildings. Use paper tubes for smoke stacks or steeples and cellophane or tissue paper scraps for cut-out windows.

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## People

Introduce this session by talking about what different people look like. They may bring up hair color and length, skin color, size and age. What are some of the different parts of the body? Ask about the important people in their lives (parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers, etc.). Provide children with old magazines, catalogs and junk mail. Let them find a picture of “themselves” and another picture to represent someone special. Help the children cut out and glue the picture onto a thin piece of paperboard. When the glue is dry, cut the figures out again. Make a cut straight across the bottom of the figure. Using the scrap paperboard, make small triangular stands that are straight across the bottom. Cut a short slit in the center bottom of each figure and a slit in the center top of the stands. Fit the slits of the stand and figures together so that the bottom of both are flush. The cut-out person will stand.

## Vehicles

Discuss with your children the different types of vehicles they see on city streets. Take a walk outside. What vehicles do they see? Make a list of all the vehicles seen. Have children describe what the vehicles look like. Are they big or small? How many wheels do they have? What shape are the wheels? How big are trucks and buses? Supply children with a variety of small boxes, cartons and containers. Let them create their own vehicles for the city. Give them toilet paper tubes, spools and film canisters if they want to make wheels. Encourage them to use their imaginations. How might their vehicle be propelled? What is their vehicle used for? Let the children place their vehicle on the city streets and move them around.

## Nature

Ask your children what other things live in the city — like plants and animals. Start a picture list of things that live and grow in the city on the chalkboard or large piece of paper. Take a walk outside to look for lawns, gardens and parks. Talk about trees, grass, flowers and bushes. What colors are they? Are they all the same? Also, look for animals that are found in the city. What kinds of animals are found here? Now let the children add some nature to their city. They can use pieces of sponge dipped in green paint to print a grassy surface, or they can dip cotton balls into green paint and glue them on the base as bushes. Paper tubes make good tree trunks. Children can rip circles from paper for tree foliage, color with crayons or paint, and glue them on the trunk. They can also glue cotton balls or popcorn dipped in green

paint on the tree. Foliage can also be created from bunched up crepe paper or tissue paper glued into place. Children may want to collect real leaves and glue them to the paper tubes. Flowers can be made from scraps of bright colored paper cut or ripped into tiny pieces. Some children may want to cut pictures of flowers from old magazines, wrapping paper or greeting cards. Glue pieces directly on the ground. Animals can be made from cut out pictures. See the section for “People” for directions.

## Other Ideas

Walk around the neighborhood again. What things do the children see that have not yet been included in their city? Keep a list of the things they mention. Back in the classroom, ask them what additional things they would like to put in their city. Help them to create these things. Power lines can be made from used straws and scraps of string. Fire hydrants can be made from spools or film canisters. Use toothpicks to lay a railroad track. Try adding lakes or pools made from meat packing trays. Include a farm or zoo with animals made from cut-outs. Children may want to show where the landfill or recycling center is. Encourage children to use their imaginations.

4. As your city grows and is completed, children will feel a sense of pride for contributing to its creation. Teachers should allow children to play with their cut-outs in the city when it is finished.

## Going Beyond:

- Older children may want to make a more futuristic city. After completion, discuss the probability of someday having real cities being built from recyclable materials.
- Instead of a city, create another setting like a playground, park or farm. For a farm, make houses and barns from boxes, fences from pieces of plastic berry baskets, silos from paper tubes. Cut-out figures of people and farm animals from magazines.

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